Law Enforcement Wing under the National Highway Authority of India;

(b) whether Government consider such a step necessary due to increasing lawlessness on National Highways and also to remove blockades caused by accidents/encroachments etc.; and

(c) whether it is also proposed to include para-medical personnel in the Patrol Force to provide first-aid treatment to accident victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (c) Constitution of a special National Highway Patrol Force would require enactment of necessary legislation. The proposal is yet to be conceptualised.

Cottage industries in rural areas

*275. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to announce new incentives to encourage setting up of cottage industries in the rural areas for reducing unemployment in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) to (c) The Government is already implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) for the promotion and development of khadi and village industries including cottage industries in rural areas. Under this programme, about 11 lakhs jobs have been created so far. It is expected that additional 4 lakhs jobs will be created during the

current financial year. It has been decided to continue the Programme during the 10th Plan period i.e. upto 31.3.2007, as well. The target set for the 10th Plan period is to generate additional employment opportunities for 2.0 million persons. Further, the Government of India announced a package for the KVI Sector on 14th May, 2001 with the prime objectives of creating more jobs in rural areas and empowering women and backward classes in India. The package consists of Rebate Policy for five years, option of Rebate and Market Development Assistance (MDA), insurance cover to khadi artisans, emphasis on improvement of khadi products, creation of packaging and design facilities, measures to promote marketing, brand building, cluster development. In view of above, no new scheme is under consideration of the KVIC for setting up of cottage industries in the rural areas for reducing unemployment in the country.

Transfer of officers to Unnao

†*276. SHRI GHANSHYAM CHANDRA KHARWAR;

SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some officers of Mainpuri district were transferred to Unnao;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some officers have refused to join their new duties thereby causing trouble in smooth functioning of communication system there; and

(d) if so, what is the justification for their not joining the new duties and what action is being taken by Government against the officers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. One Junior Telecom Officer of Mainpuri, on his

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.